

ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Claims

Following herewith is a complete listing of the claims, including a marked copy of the currently amended claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for downloading ~~up-to-date~~up-to-date versions of selected software from a plurality of software vendors over a network and for installing the software to a hardware unit, the network comprising a first software handling machine configured to execute a download manager, a second software handling machine configured to execute a download supervisor and a plurality of download servers for downloading software from the plurality of vendors, the method comprising:

associating, by said download manager, a transaction identifier with selection data comprising ~~a software selection~~indicating the selected software for which up-to-date versions are to be downloaded, said selection data being determined at the time of sale of the hardware unit;

sending a download transaction request comprising the transaction identifier from the download manager to the download supervisor; and

responsive to determining, by the download supervisor, that the requested download transaction is authorized, performing the steps of:

assembling, by the download supervisor, a download/installation instruction comprising up-to-date software access information for the ~~software selection~~selected software;

communicating the download/installation instruction from the download supervisor to the download manager; and

performing, by the download manager, a download and installation of the ~~software selection~~up-to-date versions of selected software to the hardware unit pursuant to the download/installation instruction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the transaction identifier comprises a serial number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the software access information comprises a network address for a download server.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first software handling machine comprises the hardware unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the download manager ~~is configured to execute~~ executes in a boot sequence of the first software handling machine.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the download manager loads from a removable storage media.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the first software handling machine comprises a personal computer.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the download manager ~~is configured to launch~~ launches from the hardware unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the download manager ~~is configured to launch~~ launches in a boot sequence of the hardware unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the download manager ~~is preconfigured to send~~ sends a download transaction request comprising a predetermined selection of software.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by a dedicated communications link.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the download manager ~~is configured to execute~~ executes upon detecting that the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by the dedicated communications link.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine over a network comprising a local area network.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a record of the download transaction in a central database.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein data comprising the transaction identifier is encrypted.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection data is determined in whole or in part in an interactive process.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising obtaining the selection data by a point of sale application.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining the selection data by a point of sale application comprises providing an automated kiosk for selecting software and recording the selections for a download transaction.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the selection data is determined in whole or in part by looking up the transaction identifier in a central database.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining whether the download transaction is authorized comprises evaluating the transaction identifier.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising interrogating the hardware unit to obtain information comprising preexisting software.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein interrogating the hardware unit to obtain information comprising preexisting software comprises executing a Desktop Management Interface.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising modifying the selection data in response to the information comprising preexisting software.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the software access information comprises an authentication code for activating or downloading software.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the authentication code is provided by an authentication subsystem of the download supervisor.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing download transaction data to a central database.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the download transaction data comprises a download transaction status.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the download transaction status comprises a transaction hold status.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 wherein communicating a download/installation instruction from the download supervisor to the download manager is held in abeyance while a transaction is in a hold status.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the software is data comprising music, images, and video.

34. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the software is data comprising data related to services.

35. (Currently Amended) A system for downloading software to a hardware unit from a plurality of vendors over a network, the system comprising:

a plurality of software vendor download servers in the network for ~~downloading~~ providing up-to-date versions of selected software from the plurality of software vendors;

a first software handling machine in the network and linked to the hardware unit, the first software handling machine ~~configured to execute~~ executing a download manager, the download manager ~~adapted to initiate~~ initiating a download/installation transaction comprising selected software to be downloaded to the hardware unit from one or more of the plurality of software vendor download servers, ~~to send~~ sending a transaction identifier in a download transaction request to a download supervisor over the network, and ~~to download~~ downloading and ~~install~~ installing the selected software to the hardware unit pursuant to a download/installation instruction received in response to the download transaction request, said selected software being determined at the time of sale of the hardware unit; and

a second software handling machine in the network ~~configured to execute~~ executing the download supervisor, the download supervisor ~~adapted to determine~~ determining whether the download transaction request is authorized, and, in response to determining that the transaction is authorized, ~~to assemble~~ assembling a download/installation instruction comprising up-to-date software access information for

the selected software selection and to send the download/installation instruction to the download manager;

wherein the first software handling machine is ~~linkable~~ linked to the hardware unit by an external bus, and wherein the download manager executes upon detecting that the hardware unit is linked to the first software handling machine by said external bus.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein the software access information comprises an authentication code.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the download manager is ~~configured to execute~~ executes on the hardware unit.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the software access information comprises an authentication code for activating software and a network address for downloading software.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35 wherein the software is data comprising music, images, and video.

41. (Original) The system of claim 35 wherein the software is data comprising data related to services.

42. (Currently Amended) A hardware unit configured to execute a download manager capable of downloading and installing up-to-date versions of selected software from a plurality of software vendor download servers in a network, comprising:

means to initiate the download manager during a boot sequence of the hardware unit;

means to provide a transaction identifier and software selection data indicating the selected software for which up-to-date versions are to be downloaded to a download

supervisor in the network to enable the download supervisor to identify and validate the download transaction, said software selection data being determined at the time of sale of the hardware unit;

means to receive a communication from the download supervisor comprising a download/installation instruction that includes up-to-date software access information for the selected software of the download transaction; and

means to perform the download and installation of the up-to-date versions of the selected software to the hardware unit according to the download/installation instruction.

43. (Original) The hardware unit of claim 42 wherein the means to initiate the download manager during a boot sequence of the hardware unit comprises executing a bootstrap loader to establish basic connectivity and download functions for the hardware unit in order to load a program to which the bootstrap loader hand off control.

44. (Original) The hardware unit of claim 42 wherein the selected software may be selected or modified by a user in an interactive process.

45. (Original) The hardware unit of claim 42 wherein the selected software comprises a predetermined selection.

46. – 52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising an automated kiosk running a point of sale application for allowing a user to select software at the time of sale of the hardware unit, and recording said software selections to said first software handling machine.